

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling intellectual content or functional access to one of at least a system and a commodity before and after the system or commodity is delivered to a user by a provider and according to at least time and position information, said method comprising the steps of:

affixing a position determination system to the system or commodity;

coupling a discrimination device and a clock to the position determination system;

storing access permission parameters, said access permission parameters including one or more positions and one or more times at which access is to be permitted;

receiving one of an access request signal and a time interval trigger signal;

a) determining access parameters when said one of said access request signals is received, said access parameters including at least a current position information and a current time information;

comparing said access parameters to said access permission parameters; ~~and~~

permitting intellectual content or functional access to the ~~said one of at least a system or~~ and a commodity when said access parameters satisfy said access permission parameters; ;
wherein

~~said current position is determined by receiving a signal from a positioning system~~

controlling intellectual content or functional access of the user to the system or commodity in a pre-delivery and post-delivery period; and

extending intellectual content or functional control access capabilities of the user to the system or commodity from one location to another in varying time intervals and for transportable use;

wherein a plurality of identical systems or commodities located in different locations are permitted to be simultaneously controlled by the provider.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting intellectual content or functional access to the said one of at least a system or and a commodity when said access parameters do not satisfy said access permission parameters.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of limiting intellectual content or functional access includes altering a state of the said one of at least a system or and a commodity, rendering the system or commodity unusable unless access criteria are met.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of limiting intellectual content or functional access includes outputting a signal indicating a permission failure.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of limiting intellectual content or functional access includes prohibiting intellectual content or functional access to one or more portions of the said one of at least a system or and a commodity.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing step includes decoding information using said access parameters, whereby said information can be decoded properly using access parameters that satisfy said access permission parameters.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of permitting intellectual content or functional access includes activating an actuator used to allow access to a shipping container without altering the intellectual or physical content of the shipping container.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~positioning system~~ position determination system is a satellite positioning system.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~positioning system~~ position determination system is a terrestrial positioning system that includes cellular towers.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~positioning system~~ position determination system includes at least one shaped beam transmitter for transmitting respective signals to respective predetermined geographic areas at respective predetermined times.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling intellectual content or functional access to one of at least a system and a commodity before and after the system or commodity is delivered to a user by a provider and according to at least time and position information, said apparatus comprising:

a position determination system affixed to the system or commodity;

a discrimination device and a clock coupled to said position determination system;

a memory adapted to store access permission parameters, said access permission parameters including at least one position and at least one time at which access is to be permitted;

a signal receiver adapted to receive one of an access request signal and a time interval trigger signal;

a position signal receiver adapted to receive at least a position signal indicative of a current position; and

a processor adapted to:

determine access parameters when said signal receiver receives said one of access request and time interval trigger, said access parameters including at least ~~said~~ current position information and a current time information;

compare said access parameters to said access permission parameters; and

permit intellectual content or functional access to said one of at least a the system or ~~and~~ a commodity when said access parameters satisfy said access permission parameters;

control intellectual content or functional access of the user to the system or commodity in a pre-delivery and post-delivery period; and

extend intellectual content or functional control access capabilities of the user to the system or commodity from one location to another in varying time intervals and for transportable use;

wherein a plurality of identical systems or commodities located in different locations are permitted to be simultaneously controlled by the provider.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said processor is further adapted to limit intellectual content or functional access to the ~~said one of at least a system or and a commodity~~ when said access parameters do not satisfy said access permission parameters.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processor limits intellectual content or functional access by outputting a signal for altering a state of the ~~said one of at least a system or and a commodity~~, rendering the system or commodity unusable unless access criteria are met.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processor outputs a signal indicating a permission failure when said access parameters do not satisfy said access permission parameters.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processor limits intellectual content or functional access by outputting a signal for prohibiting access to one or more portions of the ~~said one of at least a system or and a commodity~~.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said processor is adapted to compare said access parameters to said access permission parameters by decoding information using said access parameters, whereby said information can be decoded properly using access parameters that satisfy said access permission parameters.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said processor permits intellectual content or functional access by activating an actuator used to allow access to a shipping container without altering the intellectual or physical content of the shipping container.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said ~~position signal~~ position determination system receiver receives said position signal from a satellite positioning system.

a 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said position signal receiver receives said position signal from a terrestrial ~~positioning system~~ position determination system that includes cellular towers.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said position signal receiver receives said position signal from a ~~positioning system~~ said position determination system that includes at least one shaped beam transmitter for transmitting respective signals to respective predetermined geographic areas at respective predetermined times.

21. (Currently Amended) An access control system, said system comprising:
one or more transportable devices, each of said one or more transportable devices including:

an access device adapted to provide intellectual content or functional access to one of at least a controlled system and a commodity; and

a signal receiver adapted to receive an access signal for the said one of at least a controlled system or and a commodity before and after the controlled system or commodity is delivered to a user by a provider, whereby

said access device provides intellectual content or functional access to the said one of at least a controlled system or and a commodity when said signal receiver receives said access signal; and

at least one transmitter adapted to transmit a corresponding access signal for the said one of at least a controlled system or and a commodity of each respective transportable device to one or more predetermined positions at corresponding one or more predetermined times;

wherein said access control system controls intellectual content or functional access of the user to the controlled system or commodity in a pre-delivery and post-delivery period and extends intellectual content or functional control access capabilities of the user to the controlled system or commodity from one location to another in varying time intervals and for transportable use;

wherein a plurality of identical controlled systems or commodities located in different locations are permitted to be simultaneously controlled by the provider.

22. (Currently Amended) A set of computer program instructions for controlling intellectual content or functional access to one of at least a system and a commodity before and after the system or commodity is delivered to a user by a provider and according to at least time and position information, comprising:

an instruction for storing access permission parameters, said access permission parameters including at least one position and at least one time at which access is to be permitted;

an instruction for receiving one of an access request and a time interval trigger;

an instruction for determining access parameters when said one of access request and time interval trigger is received, said access parameters including at least a current position information and a current time information;

an instruction for comparing said access parameters to said access permission parameters;

and

an instruction for permitting intellectual content or functional access to the said one of at least a system or and a commodity when said access parameters satisfy said access permission parameters; ~~wherein~~

~~said current position is determined by receiving a signal from a positioning system.~~

an instruction for controlling intellectual content or functional access of the user to the system or commodity in a pre-delivery and post-delivery period; and

an instruction for extending intellectual content or functional control access capabilities of the user to the system or commodity from one location to another in varying time intervals and for transportable use;

wherein a plurality of identical systems or commodities located in different locations are permitted to be simultaneously controlled by the provider.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the commodity is software.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the commodity is digital audio/video data.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the commodity is a pharmaceutical or other product of a nature that incorporates intellectual property as a part of its market value.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a type and an amount of the intellectual content determines a price for the system or other product provided to the user.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the commodity is software.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the commodity is digital audio/video data.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the commodity is a pharmaceutical or other product of a nature that incorporates intellectual property as a part of its market value.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a type and an amount of the intellectual content determines a price for the system or other product provided to the user.
